



Barnes County and the A-Bomb

The Kleins Work Together in Top Secret War Department Facility

Dr. Clifford John Klein was born in Iowa, but was raised in Eckelson, ND. After graduating from Eckelson High, he attended Jamestown College, where he studied medicine and chemistry. He graduated in 1942, accepted a job with the Du Pont Company and was sent to Alabama.

After a year, Klein decided to join the Army Air Corps. The week before joining, his boss asked if he could go to Chicago but he declined. His boss replied, "Well, you're leaving a week from today." Klein protested, arguing he was going into the Air Corps, and was told, "They've taken care of that." With that, Klein was virtually kidnapped by the U.S. Army to work for a top secret government project - The Manhattan Project.

He first worked at the University of Chicago in the Jones Laboratory where he studied the separation of plutonium from uranium. When the job was completed, research was relocated to the secret community of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

There Cliff met Elizabeth O'Hara. Elizabeth was born and raised in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. She had worked up to a Senior Clerk position as

a stenographer to officers in the Security and Intelligence Division of the War Department in the Manhattan District. Liz took on the same duties in Oakridge, transcribing highly classified documents and conducting correspondence requiring extreme discretion. Cliff and Liz married in Oakridge in October 1944, and shared a bungalow provided for them by The Manhattan Project.

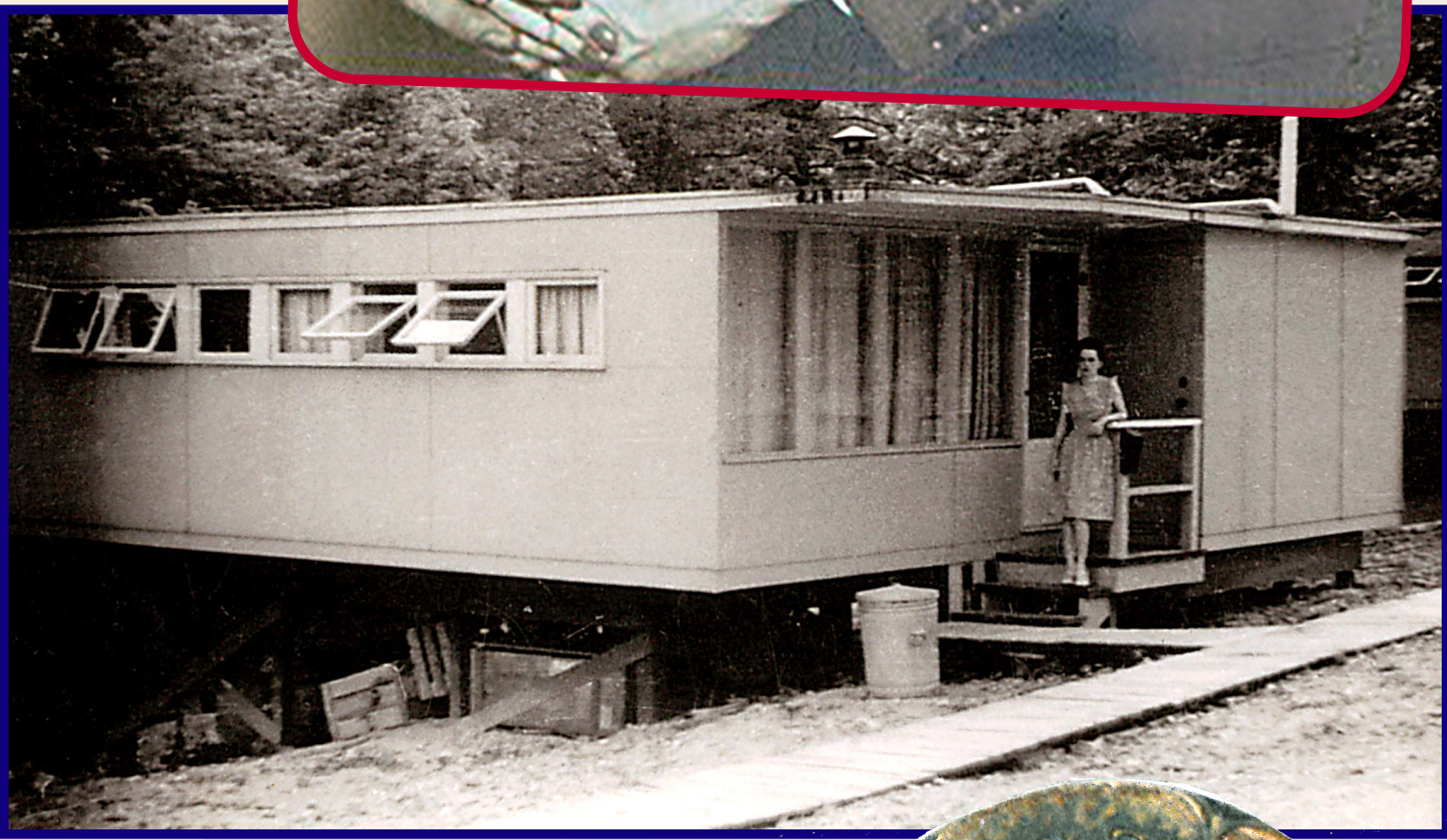
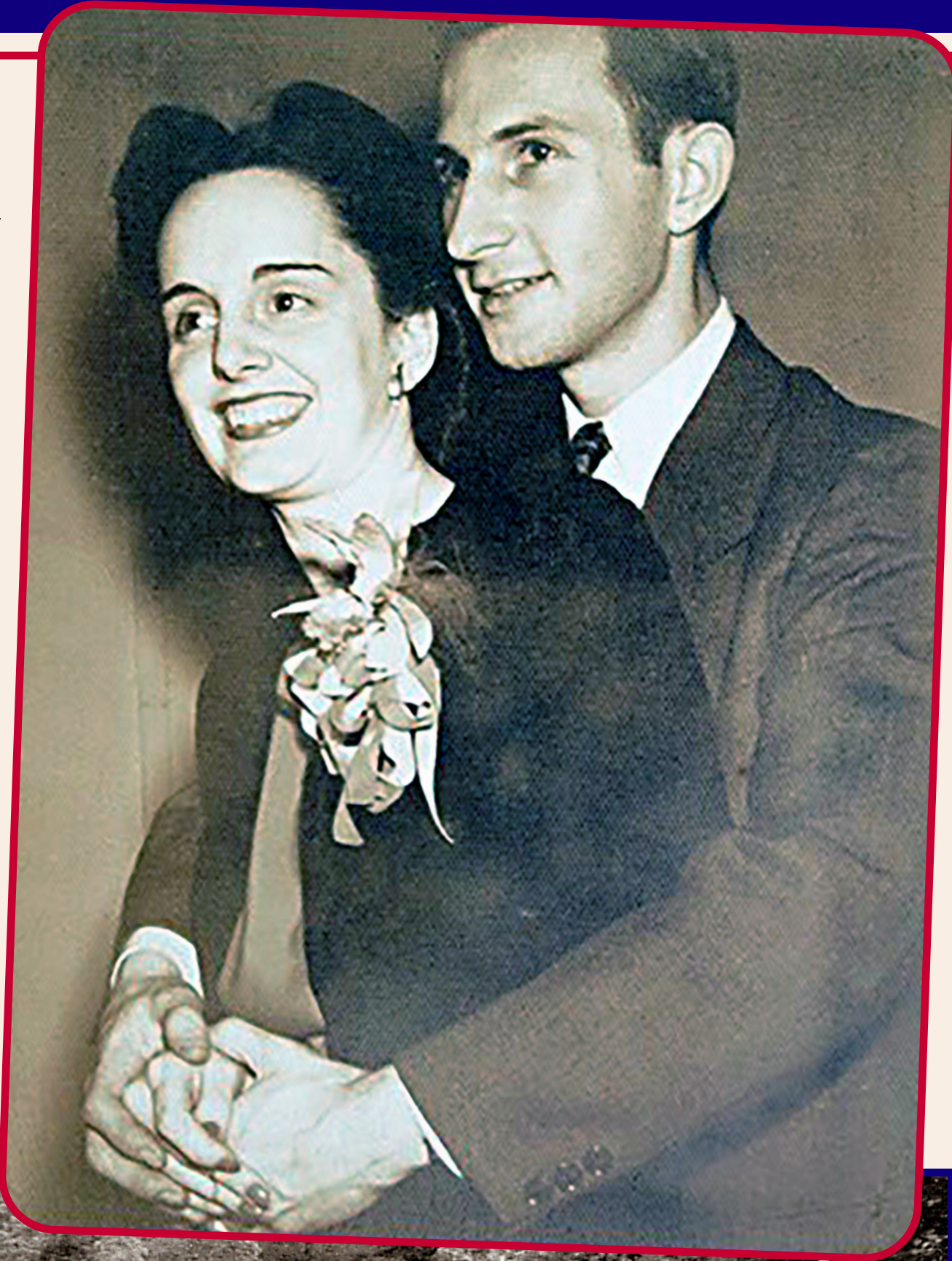
In the summer of 1944, all the researchers in secret communities came together to test the atom bomb in the desert south of Albuquerque. It was a success, and its capabilities would soon be proven devastating to the Japanese people. Klein stated "the bomb used at Nagasaki was twice as powerful, if that's the right word ... (it) released about twice as much as the one used at Hiroshima." According to Klein, the Nagasaki bomb was equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT, whereas the one at Hiroshima was equivalent to 10,000 tons.

Although Klein was far from the front lines and never saw a war-torn Europe or Asian Pacific, his work was crucial to the war effort. Because of Klein and the Manhattan Project, the war in Japan came to an abrupt end.

Clifford brought Liz back to Valley City to raise their children. Elizabeth died in 1973; Cliff in 2007. Both are in St. Catherine's Cemetery of Valley City.

(Above, right) Clifford and Elizabeth Klein on their wedding day. Below them is their Oakridge residence. (Right) A commemorative lapel pin from the Manhattan Project was given to those who worked there.

(Left) Part of the Kleins' classified documents with the U.S. War Department.



NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION App. not Req.
Clifford John Klein
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)
Order No. 10636 has been classified in Class 2-B
(Until September 14, 1945)
(Insert date for Class II-A and II-B only)
by [X] Local Board.
[] Board of Appeal (by vote of _____ to _____).
[] President.
March 21, 1945
(Date of mailing)
The law requires you, subject to heavy penalty for violation, to have this notice, in addition to your Registration Certificate (Form 2), in your personal possession at all times, to exhibit it upon request to authorized officials—to surrender it to the armed forces, to your commanding officer.
DSS Form 100-10 (Rev. 1-45)



VC Girl, Employee in Atomic Bomb Plant

An excerpt from an article in the Valley City Times Record, August 25, 1945 -

"Now it can be told" is a quotation that may be applied to the past experiences of a former Valley City girl. For the past six months, Lorraine Meinhardt (shown left) of Valley City has been assisting in the electronic laboratory at Oakridge, Tennessee, in secret work towards the development and perfection of the atomic bomb.

Litchville Chemist Among Scientists Helping to Perfect Atomic Bomb

Valley City Times Record, August 17, 1945, written by June Osterberg -

LITCHVILLE — It was learned here this week that a local man, Joseph (Edwin) Lee, son of Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Lee, was among the scientists and chemists of this country that discovered, made, and perfected the atomic bomb and its principle, considered one of the main factors in the winning of World War II. Rev. and Mrs. Lee brought the news with them when they returned from their vacation in Wisconsin, where their son met them to visit for a few days.

His works had been a complete secret ever since he joined the staff of chemists at the laboratory and plants in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in 1944. Even Oak Ridge itself was a secret town, one devoted exclusively to the task of constructing this atom bomb. Mr. Lee majored in chemistry while attending Concordia College; he was graduated in February 1944, and left, together with another graduate, by plane immediately afterwards. He began his work with the Eastman Corporation there as a junior chemist; a few months later he was promoted to assistant supervisor of his department. Still later he attained the position of chief supervisor of this laboratory, and now he has become a senior chemist.

His first job was helping to set up the laboratories to start production, but since that time he has done mostly research. All activities were supervised and guarded by the army, with control by the FBI. Mr. Lee is back at work in Oak Ridge, but the tension and mystery has decreased, and he and his fellow workers will enjoy comparative freedom to go on developing the principle of the atom for peacetime purposes.

DAVIDSON GETS WAR SUBCONTRACT

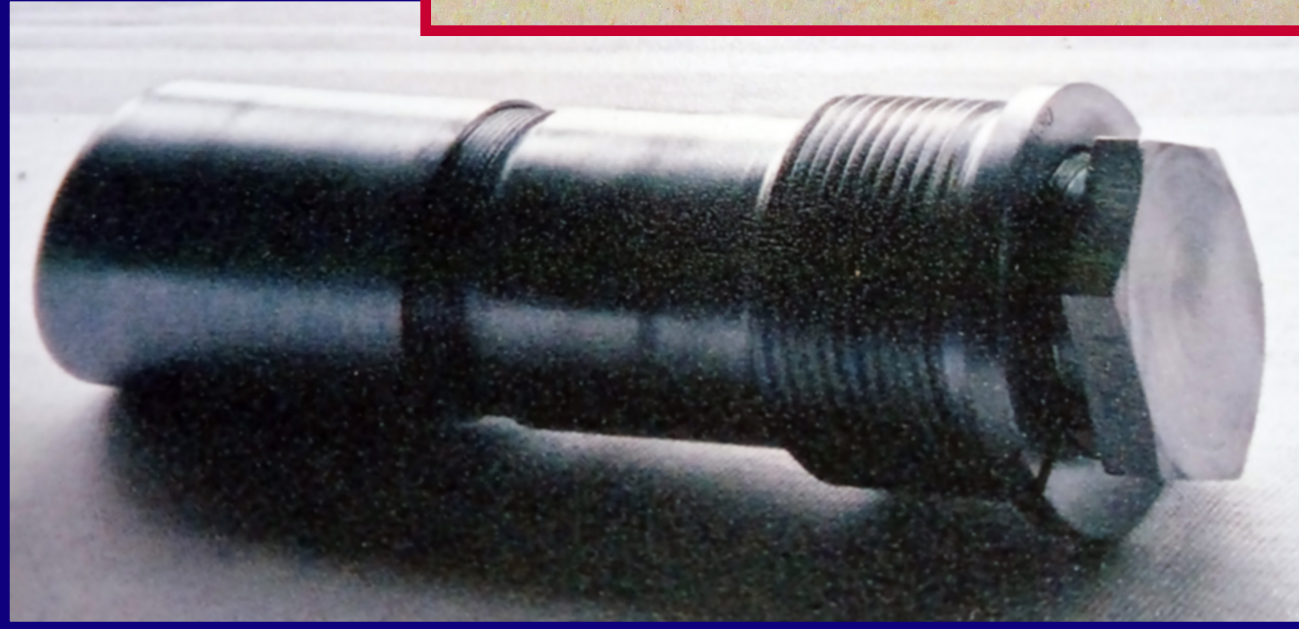
Actual war armament production has finally reached Valley City.

Harold Davidson returned from St. Paul this morning and announces that a subcontract calling for 15,000 bombing parts has been awarded to the Davidson Machine Shop of Valley City through the Northern War Production pool.

The contract will require two carloads of steel shafting and production will get underway soon on a 24-hour day basis, he said. The amount of the contract has not been disclosed.

Similar contracts have been made to fifteen other shops in North Dakota, Mr. Davidson said.

(Right) Found in the 5/6/42 Valley City Times Record. The part is shown below.



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